

April 25 Newsletter

St. Stephen's Elementary School

3669 Highland Ave., Halifax, NS B3K 4J9

PRINCIPAL: David Madgett **VICE-PRINCIPAL:** Nicole Gerrard

ADMIN. ASSISTANT: Nicole Gerrard



Principal's Message

We squeezed a lot into the month of March. The month of March is one that brings change. We usher in the spring season, move from term 2 to term 3 and planning for the end of year and beginning of the 2025-26 school year starts to come into focus.

Our student population continues to grow! A year ago today, our enrollment stood at 326 students. Today we are at 344 students, approximately a whole class more than where we were this time last year. That said, if you have a new neighbour that has moved into the community with school age children, please ask them if they have/could register them. Our spring enrollment numbers play a significant role in determining our staffing for September.

April is World Autism Month. It will also be another busy and exciting month starting off with Student-led conferences taking place this Thursday afternoon and evening followed by Easter Break in a couple of weeks.

Earth Day 2025 is also this month. The theme this year is Our Power, Our Planet which focuses on accelerating the transition to renewable energy to combat climate change. We will also have our annual school grounds cleanup, along with different class and school activities. Don't forget to support Earth Day by wearing green on April 22nd!

Looking ahead, spring brings new opportunities for learning and connection. As the weather warms, we look forward to outdoor learning experiences and upcoming events that will continue to foster curiosity and joy in our school community. Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support and partnership in your child's education. Finally, our staff would like to wish our students and families a Happy Easter this month along with our families celebrating Passover a little later in the month, have a Happy Passover.

We look forward to greeting everyone on Thursday (afternoon or evening) for Student-led conferences!

Yours in Learning,

Dave Madgett, Principal and Nicole Gerrard, Vice-Principal

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, April 1st

- 8am Out-Of-Area Requests Begin

Wednesday, April 2nd

- PTA Pancake Breakfast

Thursday, April 3rd

- AM PD Day (no classes)
- PM Student Led Conferences (no classes)

Tuesday, April 8th

- 5:15pm SAC Meeting (Staff Room)
- 6:30pm PTA Meeting (Staff Room)

Saturday, April 12th

- Passover Begins

Friday, April 18th

- Good Friday (school closed)

Sunday, April 20th

- Easter Sunday
- Passover Ends

Monday, April 21st

- Easter Monday (school closed)

Tuesday, April 22nd

- Green Shirt Day
- Earth Day

Wednesday, April 23rd

- Administrative Professionals' Day

Wednesday, April 30th

- PD Day (No School for Students)

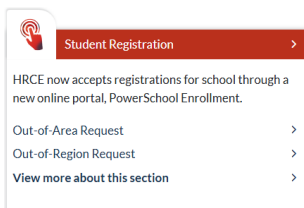
OUR POWER
OUR PLANET

HAPPY
EARTH DAY
APRIL 22



What's New

PrePrimary & Primary Registration is Ongoing



Registration for the 2025-26 school year is ongoing. Children are guaranteed a space in their designated school based on their address. Schools will be in touch with families closer to the start of the new school year with relevant details.

All registrations and updates for school are completed through the online portal, PowerSchool Enrollment.

Children born in 2020 are eligible for Pre-primary or Primary and children born in 2021 are eligible for Pre-Primary in September 2025.

For more information on registering for school, visit: <https://www.hrce.ca/families/student-registration-updates>

What's Pre-Primary all about?

Check out our [Welcome to Pre-Primary](#) site.

What does Grade Primary look like?

Visit our [Welcome to Primary](#) site.

We Are Planning for September 2025...Do you know if you are moving?



As you know, we begin planning for the 2025-26 school year beginning in February. If you know that you will be moving, could you please let us know at your earliest convenience? The most accurate enrollment projections ensures that our school is properly staffed for the upcoming year.

Excel Before & After School Childcare Early Registration Info for 2025-26 School Year



Excel is the Before & After School Childcare Program that is open to PrePrimary-Grade 6 students. Please [click this link for more information and details](#) on the Early and General registration process for Excel for 2024-25 as they become available.

Student-led Conferences Thursday, April 3rd, 2025



Thursday, April 3rd is a PD Day in the morning and Student-led conferences in the afternoon from 1pm-3pm and 5:00pm-7:00pm, by appointment with your child's teacher. Specialists will be available on a drop-in basis. If you are unable to meet any of your child's teachers, please reach out to them to schedule a meeting at a mutually convenient time.

Specialist Availability on April 3rd

Specialist	Availability (in person)	Email address
Mr. Tully (Physical Education)	1pm-3pm, 5pm-7pm	tullyr@hrce.ca
Ms. Haughian (Music)	12pm-3pm	bhaughian@hrce.ca
Ms. Bourgeois (Core French)	1pm-3:00pm	lbourgeois@hrce.ca
Ms. Humadi (EAL)	5pm-7pm	noor.humadi@hrce.ca
Ms. Hollebone	5pm-7pm	khollebone@hrce.ca

Your stuff misses YOU too.



Lost & Found

During student-led conferences please drop by the lost and found and see how much it has grown over the winter! The clothing will be displayed in the gym hallway. If you are not able to attend Student-led conferences, please drop by the school and peruse the lost and found over the next week, we would be grateful. The remaining clothing will be

bagged up and sent to the food bank on Monday April 7. Please see the last page of the Newsletter for labelling options for clothing through Mabel's Labels.

Kids Run Club



Kids Run Club will be taking place through April and May in preparation for the Bluenose Marathon Youth Run. Grades 2-6 students will run on Tuesdays and Fridays at lunch time. Please follow this link to register for the [Doctors Nova Scotia Youth Run](#)

[\(Saturday, May 17, 2025\)](#)



Earth Day 2025-Our Power, Our Planet



The 2024 global theme for Earth Day is "Planet vs. Plastics". Aside from this global focus, classes will be learning about topics such as the environment, climate change, sustainability, renewable energy, and environmental stewardship to name a few! We will also be taking part in the Great Global Clean-Up and doing our part to clean-up our school grounds.

Mabel's Labels PTA Fundraising Campaign



One of the ways we reduce the size of our lost and found is being able to identify who the piece of clothing belongs to. Mabel's Labels personalized labels and stamps can help you and our school staff keep track of your child's things (i.e. black or navy-blue snow pants)! The labels are laundry, dishwasher and microwave safe, and easy to apply. Visit Mabel's Labels at www.mabelslabels.com, click "Support a Fundraiser" and type "St. Stephens Elementary School PTA (Halifax)" into the search bar. Place your order, and it will be shipped directly to your home. The PTA receives a 20% commission on orders placed through this fundraiser.

PTA NEWS!!! Spring Fair is just a couple of months away!!!

The SSES Spring Fair is fast approaching (May 31st) and planning is underway! This is a hugely popular event, and many volunteers are needed to make it a success. Currently, our PTA is looking for donations from local organizations, businesses and people in our community and a donation letter will be made available shortly. Please contact PTA volunteers if you are interested in helping out at sseshalifaxpta@gmail.com



Dear St. Stephen's Elementary Community,

Are your little scientists bummed out about missing our winter program?? We have good news! We're extending registration by one week for our Spring program!!

Program Details:

Primary – Grade 2:

- **Day:** Monday OR Wednesday - *for the sake of small class sizes we will be splitting the P-2 group into two classes, one will be Monday, the other Wednesday.*
- **Start Date:** April 7th OR April 9th
- **Time:** During lunch

Grades 3 – 6:

- **Day:** Thursday
- **Start Date:** April 10th
- **Time:** During lunch

Cost: \$89 + tax

NEW Registration Deadline: April 2nd - ***Only a few spots left, register now before it's too late!***

Registration Link: [Click here to register now!](#)

Important Information:

If your child has ever been registered with Mad Science before please update their information (grade and teacher name) during registration.

Family Discount:

Save 15% on registration with our Family Discount! When registering two or more children, simply use coupon code **FDMAIDSCI** at checkout to enjoy this special offer. It's our way of making Mad Science more fun and affordable for families!

Payment Plans:

To make it easier for families, we offer payment plans. Simply choose the payment plan option at checkout to spread the cost over time.

Supporting Other Students:

If your family is in a position to do so, please consider donating additional funds to help other students in the school participate in the program. All donations go directly towards covering costs for families who may not otherwise be able to afford it.

If your child wants to participate but financial constraints make it difficult, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We'll do our best to connect you with available funds to ensure your child can join this exciting program.

Class Descriptions:**Ready, STEM, Go**

All About Animals: Students will explore various types of animals and creatures by discovering life inside a virtual animal kingdom. They will view replicas of animals to learn about their unique physical features, and to help classify different species.

Current Events: Kids will learn the ins and outs of electricity, circuits, and how basic scientific concepts such as moving electrons, are able to power devices that we use every day.

Energy Burst: Children will learn all about energy transfer and conversion. They will be taught the differences between potential energy and kinetic energy and how each of the two play a vital role in our everyday lives.

Kitchen Chemistry: Students will explore the chemical reactions that take place during the preparing and digesting of food. In addition they will also learn about specific food substances through analyzing and exploring certain food ingredients.

Sleuths on the Scene: One of the most famous sleuths you might have read about is Sherlock Holmes. This fictional sleuth is famous for solving crimes using his very logical and scientific powers of observation.

Spy Academy: Become a super spy and learn clever ways of performing tasks as we take a hands-on view of the science of security and forensics.

If you have any questions, need further information, are interested in donating, or require assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out.

We look forward to welcoming your budding scientists to a season of exciting discovery!

Stay Curious,



Caitlin Rogers | she/her

AKA Igor | Operations Manager

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See our availability and book us here: [BOOK NOW](#)